

Washington, DC – Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today hailed the U.S. Department of Labor's release of \$838,680,283 in unemployment insurance modernization incentive funds for California. California qualified for its full share of the funds available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by including in its law provisions that assist recent entrants to the workforce, part-time workers and workers who become unemployed because of compelling family reasons.

"As our economic recovery continues to face a steep uphill battle it is important we continue to support people struggling against high unemployment rates," said Congressman Sam Farr. "These funds will offer a beacon of hope to families struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table. And give the unemployed much needed relief as they continue their search for work and steady incomes."

"Thanks to Congressman Farr, in partnership with the actions of the state legislature, California workers will be better equipped to meet basic family needs while continuing to look for work," said *Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis*. "The federal government made these funds available as an incentive for states to strengthen their safety net as our economy continues to recover. I am pleased that California's leaders took the necessary steps to provide unemployment insurance to an expanded group of deserving workers. These funds will help people continue to pay rent, buy groceries and take care of their families while they look for full-time employment."

The California Labor and Workforce Development Agency can use the funds to pay unemployment benefits or, if appropriated by the legislature, for administering its unemployment insurance program or delivering employment services.

“These funds will help 26,000 unemployed Californians who need additional support as the state’s economy starts to recover,” said *Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.* “Thanks to the leadership of the President, Secretary Solis and actions of our own state legislature, California is better equipped to serve displaced workers and is on better footing to pay down our unemployment insurance fund debt.”

The Recovery Act made a total of \$7 billion available in UI modernization incentive payments to states that include certain eligibility provisions in their UI programs. Each state can qualify for a share of those funds by showing that its law includes those provisions. With California’s UI modernization, more than half of those funds, or approximately \$4.2 billion, have been released to eligible states and territories. California’s approved application will be posted at the department’s Employment and Training Administration website at <http://www.doleta.gov/recovery>. Other approved applications can also be found on this site.

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